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COOKING GAS PRICE HIKED BY ₹50, COMMERCIAL RATE BY STEEP ₹350

Days after polling in three northeastern states concluded, state-owned oil firms eased the freeze on LPG price revision

CYLINDER REFILL TO COST ₹1,103 IN DELHI

A 14.2-kg LPG cylinder in Delhi now costs ₹1,103, up from ₹1,053. Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation said ₹1,103 is the rate for a 14.2-kg non-subsidised LPG cylinder. The government doesn't pay any subsidy to most non-Ujjwala users and this is the rate they will have to pay for cooking gas refills

ATF PRICES CUT BY 4% TO MATCH INT'L RATES

- The government pays ₹200 subsidy per cylinder to the 9.58 crore poor who got free LPG connection under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. The effective price for them would be ₹903 per cylinder
- Separately, oil marketing companies (OMCs) cut aviation turbine fuel price by 4% in line with softening of international rates of the fuel

₹22,000 cr

ONE-TIME GRANT OMCs GOT TO MAKE UP FOR LOSSES DURING JUNE 2020-JUNE 2022

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Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

G20 | Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav | NAVA KARNATAKA FOR NAVA BHARAT

Priority to Welfare of Women and Children

Rs. 46,278 crore allocated for children under 'Child Budget'.

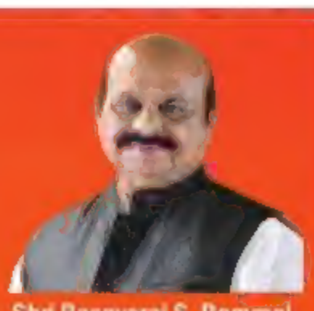
Rs. 47,256 crore allocated for Women Empowerment and Welfare

Rs 3,000 crore for health, nutrition, education, welfare programmes, housing and drinking water in 'Aspirational Taluks'

Starting of 4,000 Child Care Centres in urban areas to help building and other construction workers

BUDGET 2023-24

karnataka information



Shri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

BIG RELIEF

Strike off as K'taka okays 17% hike in staff salaries

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE state government employees, who went on a strike on Wednesday morning, called it off after the government announced that it will implement an interim salary hike of 17 per cent for the employees. The hike will come into effect from April 1, 2023. It will cost the state exchequer over Rs 12,000 crore.

After the Karnataka State Government Employees Association (KSGEA) threatened to call an indefinite stir from March 1, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai called an emergency meeting with the association members. The decision was announced by the government late Wednesday night, following which another meeting of the association members went on till 3 am.

Speaking to *The New Indian Express*, KSGEA president Shadakshari said, "We had asked for a 40 per cent hike but the government has given a 17 per cent hike. We hope that the government will clear our arrears too. For now, the state government appears to be committed as they have issued an order."

As per the order, Karnataka government employees are getting 2018 revised salary scale. The existing basic salary of employees will be hiked by 17 per cent. The hike is applicable to employees working in government departments, urban local bodies, universities, aided educational institutes and pensioners. P3,4

No bilaterals with Russia, China at Delhi G20 meeting: Blinken

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

US Secretary of State **Anthony Blinken** will arrive in Delhi on Wednesday after the G20 Foreign Ministers dinner ostensibly to avoid sharing space with Russian and the Chinese foreign ministers Sergey Lavrov and Qin Gang.

"I have no plans to see either at the G20," Blinken was quoted as saying in Tashkent before leaving for Delhi. He, however, did say he will take part in group sessions with them.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is expected to cloud most of the sessions at the meet. Given the sharp divergence in positions of members on the matter, a joint statement appears unlikely, though Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said, "It would not be correct to prejudge the outcome of the meeting." There was no joint communiqué at the recently concluded G20 Finance Ministers' meet in Bengaluru either. Lavrov had last had a one-on-one with Blinken in January 2022 in Geneva, when the US had warned Russia against Ukraine's invasion.

Positioning on Ukraine war

The US and its G-20 allies will push to adopt a tougher stand on the war. Lavrov may make a statement on the causes and masterminds of geopolitical problems, including the Nord Stream pipeline blast

Though Japan's Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi is skipping the G20 due to prior engagements, he could arrive on Friday for a Quad meet during the main event.

Ahead of an expected bilateral meeting between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his Chinese counterpart Qin Gang on Thursday, China said it values its ties with India, adding a sound relationship is in the fundamental interests of both countries and its people. Jaishankar on Wednesday held talks with Lavrov on various issues, including Ukraine. "A wide ranging discussion with FM Sergey Lavrov of Russia on #G20FMM sidelines. Exchanged views on our bilateral cooperation and G20 issues," Jaishankar tweeted.

India's pushback on UK raising BBC's survey

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday firmly told visiting his British counterpart James Cleverly that all entities working in India must fully comply with the law of the land, after the latter brought up the recent tax survey on BBC offices, during their bilateral meeting here.

"He was firmly told that all entities operating in India must comply fully with relevant laws and regulations," said sources. Cleverly is here for the G20 Foreign Ministers' meet.

The income tax department had searched BBC offices in Delhi and Mumbai over allegations of non-compliance of tax norms. The survey found discrepancies in transfer pricing documentation, the tax department later claimed. The Opposition, however, had alleged that the action was in retaliation to a docuseries aired by BBC on the 2002 Gujarat riots.

"The conversations I had with him are best to keep with him. I did raise it," Cleverly told Reuters. "One of the advantages of having such a strong and professional relationship with Dr Jaishankar is I am able to bring up, and indeed he brings up with me, some of these sensitive issues. I did raise it with him," he said.

EXPRESS READ

Govt suspends FCRA licence of Centre for Policy Research

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Home Affairs has suspended the FCRA licence of prominent public think-tank Centre for Policy Research (CPR) for six months over alleged violation of laws, officials said on Thursday. CPR, an NGO, in a statement, said it continues to cooperate fully with the authorities, is in complete compliance with the law and is routinely scrutinised and audited by government authorities, including the CAG of India. P10

Senior official's son attacked by collegemates over trivial issue

BENGALURU: Director of Cooperative Audit in the Department of Cooperation Sarfaraz Khan's 20-year-old son, along with two of his classmates, were attacked with hockey sticks and other blunt weapons by some students of their college over a trivial issue. Khan's son is studying Second Semester BA at a reputed college here. Meanwhile, the Ashoknagar police have registered a case and arrested the accused, who have been remanded in judicial custody. P3

Degree students can now switch colleges mid-way

DONNA EVA @ Bengaluru

DEGREE students studying in colleges affiliated to public universities can now seamlessly switch colleges under the same university or even to those under another public university, but at the beginning of each of the four years in accordance with the National Education Police (NEP) 2020. A government order has been issued to this effect.

Higher Education Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan said on Wednesday that the universities have been instructed that this should be facilitated through the Unified University and College Management System (UUCMS) at the start of each academic year — meaning, students will be able to opt for a transfer at the beginning of the first, third, fifth or seventh semesters.

According to sources within the education department, details like fee payments will be settled by the respective universities and colleges through the UUCMS software. In cases where students have subjects that they have not passed, details on these as well as credits will be transferred to the new college.

The students will also be allowed to exit a course mid-way and rejoin after a gap of a few years, as per the NEP 2020.

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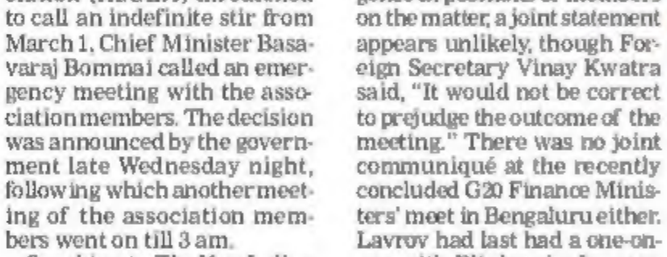

A total of 14 wickets fell on Day 1 with Australia crawling to 156/4 in their first essay. Usman Khawaja scored 60 and shared 96 runs for the second wicket with Marnus Labuschagne (31) to give Australia the upper hand | P17

Cheteshwar Pujara cleaned up by Nathan Lyon (not seen in pic) on Day 1 | AFP

The 22-yard strip at the Holkar Stadium, Indore, started turning square from the word go as India were bowled out for a paltry 109 in 33.2 overs in the third Test against Australia on Wednesday

STALIN

FAROOQ ABDULLAH BACKS TAMIL NADU CM FOR PM

The National Conference chief said there are chances for the DMK leader to become PM if the Opposition wins the General Election

P5

Teacher in soup for sharing pro-Cong post

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Koppal

SHARING a message and video link expressing his support for a political party on social media has proved costly for a government school teacher in Koppal.

Somashekar Harti, assistant teacher, Government High School at Kuknur taluk in Koppal district has been asked to appear before the DDPI for violating the norms under the Karnataka Civil Service Rules. As per the rules, government employees cannot share political messages, videos or any such content in public domain. The message and video link shared by him on a WhatsApp group have been forwarded by many, including four government school teachers.

As per sources, Harti had shared the post in Koppal Rajata Vaibhava group stating that "the Congress party will come to power 200%".

A senior official said, "The Koppal Zilla Panchayat CEO has asked the DDPI to inquire into the matter. The screen grab of the message and video link has been shared with Education Department officials. With elections approaching, we expect government officials not to indulge in any kind of political activity."

A principal of a government school said that the department has already briefed teachers and other government employees about not openly declaring their political affiliations.

The Koppal Zilla Panchayat CEO has asked the DDPI to inquire into the matter.

An official

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